

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4893

INFO USINT ALGIERS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TS, AG

SUBJ: VISIT OF PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE TO TUNIS

REF: ALGIERS 0617

1. AS EXPECTED, DURING PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE'S ONE-DAY WORKING VISIT TO TUNIS ON MARCH 22-23, DISCUSSIONS APPARENTLY CENTERED ON TWO TOPICS: ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND MAGHREBIAN UNITY. AFTER USUAL STATEMENT SUPPORTING PALESTINIANS AND AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, JOINT COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED THAT "GRAND TUNISIAN-ALGERIAN COMMISSION" WILL BE CREATED IN ORDER TO "ENLARGE AN PROMOTE A MORE INTENSIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE POLITICAL DOMAIN AND IN ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RELATIONS". COMMISSION IS TO MEET EVERY SIX MONTHS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL AND ONCE A YEAR AT LEVEL OF CHIEFS OF STATE. TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEES DIRECTED BY COMPETENT MINISTERS ARE TO MEET PERIODICALLY.

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2. BOUMEDIENE'S ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS AND

EDITORIALS IN TUNISIAN PRESS ALSO
EMPHASIZED CLOSER ECONOMIC
COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. TUNISIAN MINISTER OF
NATIONAL ECONOMY AYARI AND ALGERIAN MINISTER OF COMMERCE
YAKER SIGNED ECOPOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDES
INTER ALIA FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF MIXED TUNISIAN-ALGERIAN
COMPANY FOR CONSTRUCTION CEMENT PLANT IN REGION OF THALA
NEAR TUNISIAN-ALGERIAN BORDER. ACCORD ALSO TOUCHES ON
IMPROVED COMMERCIAL COOPERATION.

3. ON MAGHREBIAN UNITY, COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT TWO CHIEFS
OF STATE WILL "WORK FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MAGHREBIAN ENTITY
CO ORMING TO ASPIRATIONS AND VITAL INTERESTS OF MAGHREBIAN
PEOPLE. IN THIS REGARD THEY WILL UNDERTAKE ALONG WITH THEIR
PARTNERS ALL ACTION DESIGNED TO PROMOTE THE GRAND UNITED
MAGHREB".

4. COMMENT: OUMEDIENE'S VISIT AND COMMUNIQUE AGAIN
AFFIRMED ATTACHMENT OF TWO COUNTRIES TO CONCEPT OF UNKON IN
MAGHREBIAN CONXT AND THUS BY IMPLICATION PUT ANOTHER NAIL
IN COFFIN OF TUNISIAN-LIBYAN UNION. INCREASED ECONOMIC
COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES LIKELY HELP INSURE THAT
NAIL STAYS IMBEDDED. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE, NEVERTHELESS,
THAT TUNISIAN HAS NOW ESTABLISHED WITH ALGERIA SAME FRAMEWORK
WHICH IT HAS HAD WITH LIBYA.
SEELYE

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